



To: Regional Advisory Working Group

From: Miriam Chion, ABAG, and Doug Johnson, MTC

Subject: **Proposal for a Regional Equity Working Group**

## **Overview**

Equity is a central component of sustainability, along with the economy and the environment, which together define the three E's of regional planning. ABAG, MTC, and the Air District have addressed equity with various tools over the years<sup>1</sup>. In particular, MTC has used an equity analysis process with stakeholder input that can lay the foundation for the equity work within the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)/Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The creation of a new Regional Equity Working Group will support comprehensive equity planning and analysis for the SCS/RTP.

Currently, the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) and the Executive Working Group provide staff-level guidance to the overall SCS/RTP. In addition, an Ad Hoc Committee of RAWG provides input on performance targets and indicators for assessing RTP projects. MTC's Policy Advisory Council also has a 10-member Equity and Access Subcommittee that addresses issues of concern to low-income communities and communities of color.

Staff propose to form a single Regional Equity Working Group as a combined forum consisting of members from RAWG as well as the Equity and Access Subcommittee to assist the regional agencies in identifying equity issues, an analysis framework, and supportive policies that can add value to the process and/or address identified shortcomings.

## **Purpose**

The Regional Equity Working Group would advise regional agency staff on how to address equity in Plan Bay Area and to provide advice throughout the SCS planning process. The central goal of the Equity Working Group would be to focus on the provision of affordable and sustainable land use and transportation strategies. Some of the specific tasks for the subcommittee include:

- Providing input on the equity analysis of the baseline, initial vision scenario, and detailed scenarios (winter and summer 2011, respectively) including development of performance measures and indicators as appropriate.
- Reviewing the update to the Snapshot Analysis of Communities of Concern.
- Identifying additional essential equity tasks that can be effectively analyzed for the SCS.
- Reviewing and commenting on the scenarios relative to equity analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee, MTC's Snapshot report, ABAG's Development without Displacement program, ABAG and MTC's housing and transportation affordability studies, the Air District's CARE program.

- Supporting implementation of the public participation plan to engage low-income and minority communities.
- Recommending possible policy measures and actions for consideration in the SCS/RTP, based on the above work tasks.

## **Membership**

The Equity Working Group would include up to 10 members from the RAWG including city/county planning staff, county congestion management agency and transit agency staff, and representatives of community-based organizations and/or non-governmental organizations from the RAWG. These members would be augmented by the 10-member MTC Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee, whose members all represent views of low-income communities, communities of color or nongovernmental organizations.

The majority of participants will be persons of color or representatives of low-income communities and members will represent the major equity considerations in the region such as affordable housing, public health, employment access, environmental justice, affordable transit, and schools. In addition, public agency representatives will include housing interests, transportation planning, and funding.

## **Participation in the SCS**

The Regional Equity Working Group will be coordinated by MTC and ABAG staff, will meet regularly on the specific tasks outlined above, and will make recommendations to the full RAWG, the Executive Working Group, and the regional agency boards. The RAWG will remain the primary forum for the multi-interest input to the SCS/RTP, including the results of equity analyses completed during the scenario assessments.

Meetings of the Equity Working Group would be coordinated with MTC's Policy Advisory Council subcommittee meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Interested volunteers are asked to e-mail Doug Johnson, MTC staff, at [djohnson@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:djohnson@mtc.ca.gov). Please indicate the specific interest area you represent, your ethnic background, how you represent low-income communities or communities of color, and your contact information.